

THE ADVOCATE.

MERIDEN

KAN.

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Do You?

Want to keep fully posted on Alliance matters?
Do you want the Alliance to succeed and contribute to its success?

Do you want to read a bold and fearless discussion of your heaven-born rights as tillers of the soil.

Do you want encouragement in the fight you are making against the oppressors of your rights and privileges?

Do you want a true and stalwart friend for the cause?

If you do take the ADVOCATE, read and ponder over its contents and let us hear from you when you have anything to say to advance the interests of the Alliance. Help us, and we will help you.

Will Alliance Men Support the State Exchange?

Old corn of the crop of 1888 is now worth the munificent sum of nineteen cents per bushel. This being the price at this time, and the largest crop ever produced in the State being about ready to harvest, what may farmers expect to realize for new corn? There can be no doubt that the price will still decline, and that it will remain at a low figure until all that will be offered for sale is thrown upon the market. There is always a large number of farmers, who, in consequence of debt and ever present pressing necessities are compelled to market their crop as soon as it is matured at any price they can get for it. These, though in greatest need of receiving remunerative prices, invariably sell at a loss, while those who could best endure such a sacrifice, hold their products for better prices. There is not a man engaged in agricultural pursuits who is not thoroughly satisfied that there is something radically wrong in the system of marketing agricultural products when such results are possible; and there is not one who is not equally well satisfied that there is a way to change these conditions to the advantage of both producer and consumer. One of the great objects of the various organizations of farmers all over the country is to devise and carry into effect plans to secure this result. The exchange system, as developed in States most thoroughly organized, is one of the means for the accomplishment of this result. Wherever it has secured the confidence and support of the people it has been attended with success. Right here, however, is the great difficulty in the way of success in accomplishing any good through organization of the agricultural classes. There is an almost universal suspicion and distrust of every proposed method of relief. Farmers as a class have far less confidence in each other than any other class of people. Manufacturers, merchants, bankers, railroad men, and

all classes of business men are not restrained from co-operation in matters pertaining to their welfare through suspicion of the motives or the integrity of their associates; and measures for the advancement of their interests receive their hearty support if possessing the one only essential quality of merit.

This is not the case however with farmers. Realizing as they all do the imperative necessity of some measure of relief from their present depressed condition, bound together as they are in the common bonds of a fraternal organization, with common interests and nominally a common purpose, there is nevertheless a spirit of distrust pervading the entire fraternity that seriously retards every proposed movement to provide a remedy for existing evils, if it does not eventually result in its defeat. Everyone seems to fear the development of a scheme by which some other member of the Order is going to make something. There is this general feeling of distrust which is to day retarding the most important measure that has been proposed for the relief of Kansas farmers,—the State Exchange. The constitution of this exchange was adopted at the meeting of the State Alliance in August last, and was almost immediately submitted to the sub-alliances with the hope that the response would be sufficiently prompt to enable the board of directors to do something with the farm products of the present year. A special request was subsequently sent out that remittances should be made in time for the Board of Directors to take some practical steps at their meeting at Emporia the 1st. of Oct. All this has failed to elicit sufficient encouragement to place the Exchange in a position to commence business up to this date. Time which waits for no man is hastening, and it will soon be too late for the Exchange to do anything with the crop of this year. Our members seem to prefer the payment of involuntary tribute to the shysters who now control the markets, rather than voluntarily contribute an insignificant amount to a measure of relief of their own creation and under the management of their own representatives; and all because of a groundless suspicion that "there is a nigger in the woodpile somewhere," though they are not able to say just where he is. One of the most essential elements of that education which it is the province of the Alliance to encourage, is the necessity of greater confidence in each other, and less suspicion of the motives of men whose interests are identical. This is absolutely essential to success in any undertaking, and if this result cannot be attained then will the Alliance fail in its purpose and its members finally sink to a condition of ultimate servitude without hope of relief. Are the objects in view worthy of the effort and the sacrifices necessary to insure success, and will our members unite in the support of their own measures for the betterment of their condition? These are the problems now to be solved.

Give Us a Better Law.

The following from the *Southern Mercury* in relation to a better election law in Texas may be quoted as equally applicable to Kansas:

"Reforms in the election laws are becoming popular in many of the states, and the idea of reform will soon become general throughout the country. Those states which have enacted laws on the subject have embodied the leading features of the Australian law. The leading features of this law look to an absolute secret ballot. In order to secure this the state or county issues all the tickets at the public expense, which are all uniform in size and printed on but one kind of paper. These tickets contain the names of all the candidates on both sides, with provision for placing the names of independent candidates upon the tickets upon the written request of any number of citizens. These tickets are kept at the polls in the custody of the judges of election, and no one but the judges are permitted to give them out. When the voter gets to the polls he is given a ticket, and is required to be entirely alone when he prepares his ticket for voting. After voting he is required to leave the place of voting at once. No one is allowed to remain at the place of voting after depositing his ballot. The ticket peddler is not found at the polls because he is not allowed to handle tickets. These laws contain other provisions not herein stated but the foregoing are leading features. These laws have been tried for many years in Australia and Canada, and have proven very efficient in securing fair elections. In view of the fact that money has become a prime factor in the matter of controlling the elections in the United States, some such laws seem to be imperatively demanded. One of the great dangers which now menace the liberties of the people is the improper use of concentrated wealth, in the matter of controlling elections. This evil if allowed to go unrestrained will increase year by year, until it might become so powerful that it would disfranchise one-half of the voters of the country under some law imposing a property qualification as a condition to the right to vote. While Texas has not as yet been brought completely under the influence of the money rule as other states, still the danger is just ahead of us. In view of this fact it would be wise for her people to look for reforms in the matter of holding elections through more effective laws.

At the late meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Exchange, the constitution was amended in relation to the subscription to stock. Section 6 now reads as follows:

"All male members shall subscribe at least one dollar to the Sub-Alliance or individual stock to enable them to enjoy all the benefits of the exchange, provided that no Alliance or individual shall own more than fifty shares of stock."

It is said that some people live together in wedlock for twenty years without even discovering the fact that their marriage certificate had a divorce coupon attached. Oh, what ignorance!—*Southern Mercury*.

Hear the Old Cranks, Will You?

Ex: Funding is simply robbing the people on a grand scale. JEFFERSON.

The bank is a union of the government and the money power—a union far more dangerous than the church and state. CALHOUN.

Anything that the government will receive in payment of public dues is money, and good money, no matter what its form may be. HENRY CLAY.

Why compel the people to pay interest on government credit through the bank, when said credit could be extended direct to the people without interest. CALHOUN.

Our only recourse and ample one for any emergency—treasury notes bottomed on taxes. JEFFERSON.

The precious metals constantly varying in their own value, can never be made an accurate measure of the value of other commodities.

ADAM SMITH.

Banks are far more dangerous than standing armies. Let bank paper be suppressed. JEFFERSON.

The government ought not to delegate this power (issuing money) if it could. It is too great a power to be trusted to any banking company whatever, or to any authority but the highest and most responsible government. THOMAS H. BENTON.

The Last Campaign.

Was an ideal one for the monopolists and they want just such another four years hence, and are already paying out money and laying big pipes to this end.

As the issue last time can be summed down to a reduction of the tariff from 47 to 42 per cent, perhaps in 1892 the monopoly dictators will tell their politically leleaptans not to be quite so wildly radical again, but to let the people vote whether the tariff shall be 47 per cent, or 45½ per cent, and then drum up all the citizens, and have them turn out and march and hurrah and let off fireworks and prove that it would raise the general standard of American intelligence if the average voting chump had his brainpan filled with sawdust.

The banded monopolists will fling their gold by the ton and let the people scramble for it, if by so doing they can keep cheap money for the masses and government ownership for railways out of practical politics for another ten years, for by that time they hope to have the commonalty chained to the car like galley slaves.—*Farmers' Voice*.

A band went by our office playing a lively tune. A small procession followed, and forming a part of it was a fat and contented ox, gaily decked with ribbons, taking his ease on a truck. But on the side of the truck were the significant words in large letters: "Barbecue tomorrow." There are many men in political processions in about the same condition as the ox. This is not a fable.—*The Craftsman*.

Wm. Pitt, one of the greatest of English statesmen, said in 1791: "Let the Americans adopt the funding system and go into banking institutions and their boasted independence will be a mere phantom." Was he a prophet?—*Economist*.